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McNamara Chooses Yarmolinsky As Aide

Selection Is Expected To Be Controversial One Because Of Attacks By Right Wing

By PHILIP POTTER
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Washington, Oct. 25—Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, tonight announced the appointment of Adam Yarmolinsky as principal deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for international security affairs.

The appointment is certain to be one of the most controversial in the Johnson Administration because of the history of right-wing attacks on Yarmolinsky, one of the architects of the President's anti-poverty program.

When the Administration's measure establishing the Office of Economic Opportunity was before the House last year, Southern congressmen made it clear they would withhold support unless they had assurance Yarmolinsky would not be considered for the post of deputy director.

Promise Given

They were given that assurance on August 7, 1964, by Republican Ladrum (D., Ga.), who was handling the anti-poverty legislation for the Administration.

He told the House he had word from the President that Yarmolinsky would not get the appointment as deputy to R. Sargent Shriver, brother-in-law of the late President Kennedy, with whom Yarmolinsky had worked to shape the program.

ADAM YARMOLINSKY

For four years Yarmolinsky, who had been one of McNamara's top assistants in the Pentagon since 1961, had been under attack from right-wing journals, including *"Dan Smoot's Report"* and *"Common Sense,"* as an alleged security risk.

When the word was passed on Capitol Hill in August, 1964, that he was in line for the subordinate post under Shriver if the anti-poverty legislation were passed, conservatives looking for means of attacking the Administration proposal zeroed in on Yarmolinsky.

According to an article in *Esquire* Magazine last February, the North Carolina delegation in the House of Representatives made Yarmolinsky's head the price for their support of the bill.

The magazine quoted Representative Whitener (D., N.C.) as saying he had received many complaints against Yarmolinsky. The article said Whitener was carrying around a House Un-American Activities Committee report on Yarmolinsky's parents, Avraham and Bagette Yarmolinsky.

Reasons Given

According to the *Esquire* report, the Southern demand for the rejection of Yarmolinsky was witnessed by a number of key liberal Democrats including Representative O'Hara of Michigan, who attended a meeting in the Speaker's office.

Esquire reported that D. B. Hardeman, an aide to the House leadership, told O'Hara there that the reason for the opposition to Yarmolinsky was "It's some anti-Semitism, I think, and the Russian-sounding name, and Dan Smoot's been gunning for him."

Among those at the meeting was Representative Rivers (D., S.C.), who has since become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Defense Department.

Backed By McNamara

McNamara, announcing Yarmolinsky's appointment to the new Defense Department post tonight, said:

"I would personally certify as to his reliability and loyalty. You can put that on the record."

Defense Department officials said it was "entirely coincidental" that announcement of the appointment came three days after the adpournment of the first session of the eighty-ninth Congress.

They said McNamara had offered him the jost, which in some respects narrows the responsibilities Yarmolinsky has been undertaking for the Defense Chief, last May or June, but he had not agreed to accept it until last weekend.

Confirmed By Aide

Yarmolinsky confirmed this tonight, asserting he had for some time been considering other opportunities outside of government and had made up his mind to accept the new Pentagon post only during the weekend.

He said the timing—so soon after adjournment—had nothing to do with Congress or the possible reaction there, particularly since the deputy's job "did not require confirmation.

Yarmolinsky made it clear, in fact, that he would have welcomed a showdown in Congress fifteen months ago, when it was generally understood he would have been named Shriver's deputy had the Administration not felt it necessary to sacrifice him to get the anti-poverty bill enacted.

Parents Defended

As for the efforts by right-wing commentators and others to tag his parentage as suspect, Yarmolinsky had this to say:

"My parents both have outstanding anti-Communist records. It was my mother who introduced Boris Pasternak's 'Dr. Zhivago' to the American public, by way of a narticle in *Harper's* applauding the anti-Communist novel. My father is a retired Elavonic scholar, attacked by Communist publications as a tool of reactionaries."

He conceded that his mother had been "a great one for signing petitions," but added, "Neither of my parents are even Socialists."

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW
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